

spend a lot of time abroad and incommunicado), research interests, willingness, astuteness and thoroughness.

In many instances, even the most percipient and assiduous referee can only give a qualified recommendation. Excepting papers that are so brilliant or so abysmal that the process of referral is largely redundant, the final judgement must still lie with the editor. Only he can assess a submission in the context of others already received, accepted or awaiting publication. It is his responsibility to impose an acceptable degree of uniformity in style and presentation that contributes to the recognised qualities of his journal. It is his function to encourage an interchange, involving the author(s), himself and the referee, if necessary, that will achieve a compromise acceptable to all interests. It is not always easy, but if successful the editor plays a useful part in this, the final stage of the research project. I am happy to say that I have received many more thanks than curses in the process, and these have contributed towards the satisfaction of editing *Ibis*.

I thank the librarians of the Linnean Society and Zoological Society of London for the selection and loan of certain literature cited in this paper.

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The type locality of *Rheinartia ocellata nigrescens* Rothschild

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The Peninsular Malaysian subspecies of the Crested Argus *Rheinartia ocellata nigrescens* was described by Rothschild (1902) from 2 male and 1 female specimens taken by J. Waterstradt's Dayak collectors. In the original description the type locality was given as "the eastern Malay Peninsula, at Ulu Pahang", that is, an imprecisely defined region around the headwaters of the Pahang river.

Robinson (1906) reported that "the three original specimens . . . were secured, according to information obtained by me, by Mr. Waterstradt's native hunters on the Ulu Dong, a river [which] takes its rise on Gunung Benom". The way in which this information was obtained was not given. Robinson's statement seems to have been the basis for quoting Ulu Dong, or Sungei Ulu Dong, as the type locality by Beebe (1922), Gibson-Hill (1949) and Medway (1972). There are no specimens specifically from the mountain Gunung Benom in the American Museum of Natural History, British Museum (Natural History) or the University of Singapore (the former Raffles Museum collection). Four of Waterstradt's specimens from the Rothschild collection, including the lectotype (AMNH 544050) and 2 paralectotypes, are in the American Museum of Natural History, all bearing the locality Ulu Pahang and dates from October 1901 to January 1902. Two more, again from Ulu Pahang and dated January 1902, are in the British Museum (Natural History).

Gunung Benom is a rounded granite mountain with broad ridges and no very steep faces, isolated from montane forest on the Main Range to the west by 27km and from Gunung Tahan to the northeast by 62km. Gunung Tahan and its outlier Gunung Rabong, where calls were heard and feathers collected in 1972 (Wells 1975) and birds seen in 1976 (Davison 1978), are both steep sandstone mountains with scattered granitic intrusions and knife-edge ridges. On Gunung Rabong the birds' calls are so loud and frequent that one cannot spend a day in the 700–1000 m altitude region without hearing them. Since 1977 I have climbed Gunung Benom fully or in part by 3 routes: in September 1977 by the northeast ridge on the same route as Medway (1972); in February 1978 up the banks of the Ulu Dong on the northwest; and in May 1979 to the stone pinnacle of Batu Gambar Orang on a southeast ridge. On none of these trips did I find any evidence of *R. o. nigrescens*, although this was the main target in each case and although 7 other phasianid species were seen or heard.

Robinson's restriction of the type locality to Ulu Dong led to the inclusion of Gunung Benom in this bird's range by later authors (Robinson & Chasen 1936, Gibson-Hill 1949, Delacour 1951, Medway & Wells 1976). Although Ulu Pahang is not a precisely defined area, Gunung Benom clearly does not lie within it, whereas Gunung Tahan may be considered to do so. Waterstradt collected birds on Tahan from May till at least November 1901 (Hartert 1902), overlapping the dates when the type series was obtained, and Hartert, who mentioned these specimens, specifically stated that he was reporting on birds collected on that mountain. There is no river Dong on Gunung Tahan, but a river Gedong drains a subsidiary peak near the present ascent route from the southeast (Directorate of National Mapping, Malaysia, Series L7010, sheet 58).

My visits suggest that this bird does not occur anywhere round the flanks of Gunung Benom. Specimens, sightings and clear descriptions exist only from Tahan and Rabong, and I consider that it is only found on that sandstone massif, which simplifies the picture of its distribution and ecological requirements. I therefore reject Robinson's restriction of the type locality, and restrict it instead to the middle slopes of Gunung Tahan, northern Pahang in the Malay Peninsula.

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A new subspecies of the Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*, with notes on generic relationships

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According to Storr (1973: 128), the Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* ranges north in Queensland, Australia, to the mouth of the Norman River and the Georgetown district, both at the base of the Cape York Peninsula. There appear to be no records of the species from the Peninsula itself.

In a small collection of Queensland birds taken by the Denton brothers in 1883, purchased by Carnegie Museum of Natural History from Shelley W. Denton in 1911, is a single specimen of this honeyeater from Friday Island, one of a group of small islands in Torres Strait, between Cape York and New Guinea. This represents a major range extension for this species, enough to make one suspect an error in labelling. However, the bird bears the original label in the collector's handwriting, and, even more importantly, the specimen is completely outside the range of variation of 101 specimens, from all over Australia, examined in the American Museum of Natural History. I believe the specimen represents a previously unknown, distinctive, isolated population. Survey of those museums known to hold collections from the islands in Torres Strait failed to turn up any additional specimens of Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, but the distinctiveness of the unique Carnegie specimen prompts me to provide it with a name. Salomonsen (1967) considered the species